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New Books.

THE ARBITER IN COUNCIL. Anonymous. London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 567 pages. Price, 10 shillings net.

This book of 567 pages, the name of the author of which is unfortunately not given, is an attempt, seemingly, to bring into the compass of a single volume all the arguments against war from every point of view. And it would be difficult to mention any objection which has ever been brought against the military system which is not woven into the discussions found in these pages. The book might almost have been called an encyclopædia of peace thought.

The treatment of the subject is put into the form of a conference of nine persons, which the Arbiter is represented to have called at his country house in the autumn of 1904, and the book is divided into seven parts, to represent the seven days of the conference.

On Monday, the first day, the causes and consequences of war are unfolded in an address by the Arbiter, a hale old man of seventy-five from the north of England, with which it had been arranged that the conference should be opened. Eighty pages are devoted to the elaboration of this subject, in which fine insight into the true character of war and its causes is shown—the mainsprings of the custom being declared to be thirst of glory, lust of dominion, the cabals of statesmen, the appetite of individuals for power or plunder, for wealth without industry, for greatness without merit. In the discussion of the question whether war is an evil occurs this fine passage: "To go to war is to enthrone force and defy justice. What distinguishes war is not death, or disease, or destruction, or the other visible woes that are drawn in its train. What distinguishes war and makes it the worst of all evils is not that man is thereby slain or despoiled, but that he is slain and despoiled by the cruelty, treachery and injustice of his fellows. The *distinguishing* evil of war is moral evil."

The second day is devoted to modern warfare, and the changes that have been brought about in the military art and practice, a military expert and an admiral contributing papers; the third day to private war, the duel, and the history of cruelty; the fourth to perpetual peace, or the federation of the world; the fifth to the subject of arbitration; the sixth to the political economy of war; and the seventh, Sunday, to Christianity and war, a warm debate taking place, in which many religious controversies are raised.

It is not easy to give by quotation any just idea of the varied contents of the book or of the wide and interesting range which the discussion takes. Historical references full of interesting information abound, and though the discussions are long, they are nowhere monotonous and wearisome. Each chapter is complete in itself, and may be read alone, though the whole book should be examined in order to understand the cumulative and full force of the argument. If every young man in college or just out of college could be induced to read carefully this work, the whole thought of the coming generation about war would be changed even more rapidly than it is changing.

The Arbiter has the last word in the discussion of the last day, and, in reply to a somewhat pessimistic

remark of one of the group about "national variety and other odious emotions, such as the widely-diffused desire for excitement, that urges city populations to ruin," says:

"Spend the money you waste on armaments in destroying slums and gin-palaces; create healthy places of amusement—counter attractions to vice; take the country into the town and the townsfolk into the country. In other words, let nations so govern themselves that all their citizens shall have free scope for development. Then there will be plenty to do at home without going to war abroad. Then it will be a sweet and glorious thing to *live* for one's country. Living patriotism will be so busy that dying patriotism, which is, after all, only work for the unemployed, will not be called for."

International Arbitration and Peace Lecture Bureau, 31 Beacon Street, Boston.

The following persons may be secured to give lectures, club talks and addresses before public meetings, churches, schools and other organizations on international arbitration and peace. Those wishing their services should communicate directly with them as to dates and terms.

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